

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies the enclosed Request for Continued Examination (RCE). After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8-10, and 12-23, and 25-37 are pending in the Application. Claim 19 has been allowed. Claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 26 rather than claim 20. New claims 25-37 have been added. Reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 17, and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutz (DE 38 15 990). Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the apertures located in the sides of the assembled member for receiving the ends of the tubular members open to a common through channel. It is respectfully submitted that Lutz does not anticipate, teach, or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Lutz discloses a corner member (1) formed by assembling a lower and upper clamp member (5,6). The assembled clamp members form two independent cavities for receiving ends of frame rail (3). The two cavities are separated by a wall formed between the end of the cavity oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis (extending front to rear of the dolly) of the corner member and a side of the cavity oriented parallel to the horizontal axis (i.e., perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the corner member) of the corner member. The wall separating the two passages can be seen through the opening of the horizontal passage of the left and right front corner members (see Lutz, Figure 1). Since the wall between the two cavities seals off the end of the longitudinal cavity, the cavity does not form a common through channel. Furthermore, Lutz discloses only a single access aperture opening to the longitudinal cavity (which is the passage the Examiner asserts as including a stop means), whereas Applicant's invention claims a plurality of apertures opening to a common through passage. With regard to the horizontal cavity, although the cavity appears to extend through the corner member, the passage is not shown to include a stop means for limiting the travel of the frame rail (3) into the

passage. Accordingly, Lutz does not disclose access apertures open to a common through channel having a stop means for limiting the travel of the frame rail inserted into the channel.

Examiner asserts the wall separating the longitudinal cavity in Lutz from the horizontal cavity functions as a stop for limiting travel of the frame rail (3) inserted into the longitudinal cavity. Applicant contends, however, it is the ends of flange (4) which limit the extent to which frame rail (3) can be inserted into corner member (1). In particular, Figure 3 of Lutz shows the ends of flange (4) butted up flush with the edge of the corner member (1). Furthermore, the text of Lutz specifies "the purpose of the flange-type reinforcing plate 4 is, on the one hand, so that the point where the clamp socket 2 meets the frame rail 3 with the flange-type reinforcing plate 4 on the top side is flush, and thus the entire bearing surface is planar." See page 3, second paragraph of Lutz translation submitted in connection with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with this Amendment. If the end wall of the longitudinal cavity were to act as a stop, as the Examiner suggests, then there would be a gap between the end of flange (4) and the edge of the corner member (1), which defeats the expressly stated purpose of having a smooth transition between corner member (1) and side rails (3). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the end wall of the longitudinal cavity does not act as a stop, but rather, it is the contact between flange (4) and the edge of corner member (1) that controls how far side rail (3) may be inserted into the corner member.

Regarding claim 17, Applicant once again restates that none of the cited references, taken individually or in any permissible combination, teach or suggest an assembled member having an exposed upper surface with a raised lip traversing a width of a center portion of the assembled member. In contrast, Lutz merely discloses a corner member (1) having a raised lip (8) extending along an outside edge of the corner member. The lip (8) is not shown to traverse a center portion of the corner member (1). Accordingly, the cited references do not anticipate or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Claim 20 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the block member includes a first and second passage for receiving ends of elongated members, each of the passages having a stop member for limiting movement of the elongated members within the passages. It is respectfully submitted that Lutz does not anticipate, teach, or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Lutz discloses a corner member (1) formed by assembling a lower and upper clamp member (5,6). The assembled clamp members form two independent cavities for receiving ends of frame rail (3). At best, only one of the cavities includes a stop means for limiting the amount of travel of frame rail (3) within the cavity. Accordingly, Lutz does not disclose the claimed combination of elements as set forth in Claim 20.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3, 17, and 20-23 as being unpatentable over Lutz under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 10, 15, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutz (DE 38 15 990) in view of Liu (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,205), and further in view of Roby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,077,644). Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutz (DE 38 15 990) in view of Roby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,077,644). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide reinforcing dowels as taught by Roby and hollow out an interior portion of the corner members of Lutz for the purpose of providing support which adequately accommodates threaded fasteners. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken individually or in any permissible combination, anticipate, teach, or suggest an upper element having an exposed surface with apertures for receiving bolts, the apertures extending into integral dowels formed on the interior surface of the upper element. More specifically, the aperture (35) of Roby that the Examiner references does not extend into an integral dowel formed on the interior surface of adapter block (13). Dowel (30) is an integral part of platform (10), not

adapter block (13). Consequently, aperture (35) is not shown to extend into an integral dowel formed on the interior surface of adapter block (13).

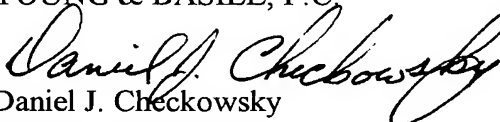
For the above reasons Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 10, 15, 16, 18, and 12-14 under 35 USC § 103(a).

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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